

Claims

1. Method for using metadata from different sources, said metadata describing and being linked to multimedia essence and being used for accessing said multimedia essence, characterized by
 - receiving original metadata from different sources;
 - deriving from said original metadata unified metadata using one or more transformation rules, said transformation rules specifying how the content or parts of the content of said original metadata shall be used to constitute the content or part of the content of said unified metadata.
2. Method according to claim 1, further characterized by
 - presenting said derived unified metadata to a user;
 - processing said derived unified metadata in response to a user input.
3. Method according to claim 2, wherein said processing results in selecting, deleting or modifying said unified metadata.
4. Method according to any of claims 1 to 3, further characterized by
 - storing the original metadata;
 - keeping the stored original metadata unchanged; and
 - enabling to recur from the unified metadata to the original metadata.
5. Method according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein said original metadata contain links, and where a part of said transformation rules covers the mapping or inheritance of said links from within said original metadata into all derived said unified metadata.

6. Method according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein said original metadata are at least partly structured and where said transformation rules are at least partly based on examining and evaluating the structure of said original metadata.
7. Method according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein said original metadata at least partly consist of sequences of words not otherwise structured, where said transformation at least partly involves a search phrase, where said transformation rules are at least partly based on evaluating a phrase similarity measure, where said phrase similarity measure is based on word order and/or word distance measures, and where, prior to applying said phrase similarity measure, the words of said original metadata and of said search phrase are optionally normalized by applying a stemming algorithm.
8. Apparatus for using metadata from different sources, said metadata describing multimedia essence and being used for accessing said multimedia essence, **characterized in**
- means for receiving original metadata from different sources;
 - means for deriving from said original metadata unified metadata using one or more transformation rules, said transformation rules specifying how the content or parts of the content of said original metadata shall be used to constitute the content or part of the content of said unified metadata.
9. Apparatus according to claim 8, further **characterized by**
- means for presenting said derived unified metadata to a user;
 - means for processing said derived unified metadata in response to a user input.